



OLC 78-0049/4

18 MAY 1978

MR
EST PACK
GAO

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Acting Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: GAO Audits and Program Reviews

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum to General Counsel,
Legislative Counsel, and Deputy Director
for Resource Management; Subject: GAO
Audits; dated April 28, 1978

1. You have asked for my comments on your memorandum relating the results of your lunch with Comptroller General Staats.

2. Our current policy vis-a-vis GAO is divided into two parts: 1) substantive non-compartmented intelligence; and 2) compartmented information which deals both with substantive intelligence which might reveal sources and methods and information on sources and methods. Admiral Turner has agreed to discuss with GAO, on a case-by-case basis, requests for non-compartmented substantive intelligence and to provide such information to the degree necessary to enable GAO to accomplish its mission. On compartmented substantive intelligence revealing sources and methods and information on sources and methods, the policy has been to deal not through GAO but only with the congressional committee requesting the GAO study. This, of course, eliminates self-initiated GAO audits and reviews involving compartmented and operational matters.

3. The implementation of the above mentioned policy has led to a stand down to date on providing compartmented and operational information to GAO. However, it is obvious from your conversation with Staats that this policy has not been totally accepted by him and GAO staffers continue to request compartmented clearances. The latest